

IN HONOR OF MONSIGNOR  
WILLIAM F. BURKE

**HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 1998*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today as I commend Monsignor William F. Burke, Ph.D., on his fifty years of devoted service to the Knights of Columbus Rockaway Council.

A Bronx native, he is one of eight children born to Anthony B. Burke and Anna M. Wash. The product of a fine, traditional Catholic upbringing and education, Monsignor Burke attended such institutions as St. Joachim's School in Cedarhurst, Long Island and St. Augustine's Diocesan High School in Brooklyn. He went on to study at St. John's College in Brooklyn, where he graduated Cum Laude, with a BA degree in June of 1939. Later, he received a M.A. from St. John's University in June 1948, and a Ph.D. from St. John's and Columbia Universities in 1959. He taught at St. John's University Graduate School from 1948-1952.

As a priest, he has had the chance to share his faith and spread the message to benefit a number of parishes throughout the years. He has had the opportunity to leave his mark on the parishes of St. Patrick's Church, in Huntington, Long Island (1943-1945) before going to St. Francis de Sales in Belle Harbor. In June 1951, he joined St. Camillus Parish in Rockaway Beach, where he was appointed to office of Director of Institutional Services in 1963. He retained this position until his retirement from the post in January 1995. Monsignor Burke is presently a Sunday assistant at that parish.

Among his many accomplishments at St. Camillus Parish, Msgr. Burke became Chaplain of Knights of Columbus in April 1948. He served on many Diocesan Committees as the Director of the Health Insurance and Employee Relations offices. Also during that time, he worked on a Papal committee for Pope Paul VI in 1965 and two for Pope John Paul II in 1979 and later again in 1995. In September of 1952, he established, organized, and directed the St. Camillus Band, which went on to win many competitions, medals and trophies. An octogenarian with a lot of spunk, he still manages to travel all over the United States as director of the band.

I would like to take this opportunity to salute Monsignor William Burke. He has made it his life's work to improve the human spirit and we thank you for your many years of service to the Catholic faith. Congratulations on fifty years of service to Knights of Columbus, Rockaway Council and to the citizens of New York, many more to come.

**KENNETH STARR'S CREDIBILITY  
AND INTEGRITY**

**HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 12, 1998*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, for those who missed it, I would like to bring an opinion piece from the March 11th Wall Street Journal

to the attention of my colleagues. As the piece makes clear, our sense of right and wrong and our commitment to the rule of law is being challenged by the attacks on Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's credibility and integrity. We would be wise to allow the investigation to proceed in an environment free of partisan bickering to allow the truth to be found.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the following column to the attention of all interested parties.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Mar. 11, 1998]

**THE BORKING OF STARR**

We blink every time talking heads discuss Kenneth Starr's low approval ratings; we hope we aren't the only ones taken a bit aback by the very idea of conducting opinion polls about judicial officers. In the judicial branch, we thought, the game was about statutes and precedents and scholarly qualifications, not about popularity. But perhaps this useful distinction too is being obliterated in the current climate.

If so, the corner was turned with the campaign against Robert Bork's nomination to the Supreme Court. Precisely because his scholarly attainments and intellect were the cream of his generation, his opponents feared his views would dominate a new crop of jurists. So they mounted a campaign to drive down his poll ratings, and thereby frighten the Senators weighing his nomination. They succeeded, but the cost to American institutions becomes clearer and clearer with the passage of time.

We have arrived at a point where a James Carville goes on television to declare "war" on Kenneth Starr. Mr. Starr is an official of the U.S. government, duly appointed by a panel of three judges pursuant to laws passed by the U.S. Congress and signed by Bill Clinton. Presumably this means he is not the local football coach, removable by mob sentiment. If Mr. Starr is abusing his powers, that same law provides that the Attorney General can remove him, and she should do so.

Instead, Mr. Clinton's Attorney General has expanded the scope of Mr. Starr's investigation at least three known times. Four former attorney generals, including Griffin Bell of the Carter Administration, have testified to Mr. Starr's long-standing personal reputation for integrity and judicial temperament. (Since their statement has not been widely covered, we reprint it in its entirety nearby.)

None of this matters in Mr. Carville's war, and we're confident none of it is explained to people when the pollsters put their questions.

What we have here is a public relations offensive intended to turn the public against a court official going about his work and not in a position to reply to every criticism. In the March 2 New York Times an obviously confident White House aide casually describes "our continuing campaign to destroy Ken Starr."

This "continuing campaign" hasn't been restricted to Mr. Starr, himself a former appeals court judge. Judge David Sentelle of the three judge panel has been diminished by Clinton operatives as merely a tool of Senator Helms. Other troublesome judges can expect to be similarly targeted. This is, in effect, an attack on the judicial branch if not indeed the law itself.

In this campaign, the President of the United States avails himself of his own personal Praetorian Guard of dirt-diggers, personified by Terry Lenzner's Investigative Group Inc. Back in 1994, the President's private attorneys, Robert Bennett and David Kendall, retained IGI's services in the Paula Jones and Whitewater cases. Jack Palladino,

hired in the first Clinton Presidential run to help with Betsey Wright's "bimbo eruptions," has also appeared on the scene, bragging about his success in avoiding subpoenas. Mike McCurry, spokesman for the Presidency who's doubling inappropriately as flack for Mr. Clinton's own lawyers, said the President was aware that his private lawyers had hired outside investigators but that the detectives weren't looking for "personal derogatory information."

Yet somehow derogatory information, some of it plainly false, keeps popping up. Former prosecutor Joseph diGenova said last month on "Meet the Press" that journalists told him that both he and his wife were being probed after they'd given interviews critical of Mr. Clinton in the Lewinsky scandal. Mr. Starr's private life has also been investigated, with all involved denying a White House connection. Mr. Starr's perhaps impolitic subpoena of White House spinner Sidney Blumenthal came after the IC's office started receiving reporters' calls asking for comment on destructive rumors about staff prosecutors. Wire stories, for example, suggested that prosecutor Bruce Udolf has been fined 10 years ago for violating a defendant's civil rights in Georgia. A former federal judge defended Mr. Udolf against the implication that he could be expected to abuse the law.

Richard Nixon's Watergate "plumbers" offended mainly because the President, who has authority over a powerful national security apparatus, had created a private posse to investigate his enemies, unchecked by professional pride and the mores of an ongoing institution. It's now evident that the Clintonies learned two things from Watergate: Burn the tapes, and put your plumbers in your personal law firm to acquire attorney-client privilege.

No doubt the White House is proud of its success in Borking Mr. Starr. Yet serious people would recognize the damage being wrought to institutions developed over centuries to uphold the idea that civilization means something more than the sentiment of the passing moment. If poll ratings are all that matter in the nation's capital, a President can perhaps sustain them with a prosperous economy and a winning television manner, or as the Romans said, bread and circuses. Mr. Carville's war and Mr. Starr's polls give us a glimpse of one possible evolution of our political system in an era of instant communications. The issue is whether we will be governed by men or by laws.

**UNITED STATES-PUERTO RICO  
POLITICAL STATUS ACT**

SPEECH OF

**HON. PETER DEUTSCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 1998*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 856) to provide a process leading to full self-government for Puerto Rico:

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Chairman, recently, we have heard threats from the Popular Democratic Party of Puerto Rico (PDP) that it will boycott any referendum which does not include a definition of "commonwealth" that does not conform to PDP doctrine. It seems to me that this would be an ill-advised course for the PDP, because the elected constitutional legislature of Puerto Rico has adopted two